APPENDIX II.

RULES AND ORDERS FOR THE PURCHASE OF STORES FROM THE JAIL DEPARTMENT.

(G. R., H. D., No. 4833/3, dated 15th January 1935.)

Owing to the general trade depression and to the fact that hand-made goods cannot compete on equal terms with machine made goods the demand for Jail made articles from the general public has fallen considerably. As a consequence it has become increasingly difficult to keep jail-labour employed on productive work. Government have therefore considered what steps should be taken to provide jail-labour with an adequate and productive out-let. As a result of this review, Government are pleased to issue the following orders which supercede previous orders with which they conflict.

2. The principles to be observed are as follows :—

(1) The primary object of the Jail department is to keep its convicts employed; the making of a profit on its labour is only secondary, though a desirable object.

(2) The labour on which convicts are engaged should be productive, i.e., should not be useless work for work's sake, since this is demoralising to the convicts and economically wasteful.

(3) Jail labour should not compete fairly with private labour. Jail-made articles should not be sold at prices which will undercut those manufactured by private enterprise and convict manual labourers should not be supplied at rates which compete unfairly with free labour.

(4) In qualification of principle (3) it is laid down that when Government itself (in other departments) is the purchaser, preference should always be given to articles manufactured by the Jail department. In other words other departments of Government should always use jail-made goods and employ jail labour if available but should not pay rates which are higher than they would obtain by private tender.

3. Articles used by other departments of Government are supplied either direct to the Head of the Department or through the Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, on indents submitted through that officer. As regards the latter class of articles, Government are pleased to direct that the Inspector General of Prisons or an officer of his department deputed by him should visit the stationery office and examine the articles stocked there with a view to settle what articles can be supplied in future by the Jails and to fix their standards and specifications. As regards articles supplied direct to departments, all heads of departments should enquire of the Inspector General of Prisons whether he can supply the articles they obtain by private tenders. The Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, and heads of Departments should accept the tender of the Jail department provided the quality of the jail-made articles is tolerably good for use and provided the rates are reasonable. These rates should be as near the market price as it is practicable to fix it. In arriving at these rates the Inspector General of Prisons is authorised to adjust the charges for convict labour and inevitable overhead charges to as low a figure as is necessary to arrive at the approximate market rates for the finished articles. In the event of the Inspector General of Prisons and the Head of the department concerned or the Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, not coming to a settlement, the Director of Industries should act as referee and decide the matter irrespective of whether the price so fixed does not meet the views of one department or the other.

Similarly, if the Inspector General of Prisons and the Backward Class officer get into unnecessary competition with one another in respect of supply of articles or labour by their departments and cannot reach a settlement between them, the matter should be referred to Government.

4. As regards the fixing of standards and specifications, each case in which agreement is not reached between the Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Bombay, and the Inspector General of Prisons for articles supplied to departments through the former should be referred to the Director of Industries, who in consultation with the Heads of departments which chiefly use an article in question, should frame the necessary specifications. These will be final unless the principal consuming departments do not accept them, when they should be submitted to Government.

5. Any complaints regarding the quality of articles supplied by the Jail department to the Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, should be referred to the Director of Industries for final decision.

6. Other departments of Governments should use convict labour on Government works, wherever this is practicable. The rates paid for this labour should be 75 per cent. of the usual wages of free labour in the locality.

7. The Superintendents of Prisons should, in their discretion fix the rates at which jail-made articles are sold to the general public, subject to the provision that they shall not be below the market rate.

8. The Inspector General of Prisons should be requested to take such steps as he considers necessary to maintain a uniform standard in regard to prices of jail-made articles.

(G. R., H. D., No. 4833/3, dated 11th November 1938.)

9. The Inspector General of Prisons may at his discretion supply convict labour to the public at rates which should not be less than 75 per cent. of the wages of free labour of the same class in the locality.